out a document depicting the status of Science in India with the title "India Science Report". The report among several other things mentions about the availability of good science teachers. However, no shortage of science teachers is reported by any organization to this Ministry.

Improvement in condition of women and children

†506. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any concrete steps to improve the social and economic condition of women and children of rural areas living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to announce any new scheme for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is implementing various schemes such as Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Swayamsidha, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), programmes of Central Social Welfare Board such as Awareness Generation Camps, Condensed Course of Education for Women,Training programmes, etc. to improve the social and economic condition of women in the country.

(c) and (d) New schemes for this purpose are not proposed to be announced in the immediate future.

Entry of foreign institutions under WTO

†507. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government cannot ban entry of the foreign educational institutions in the country under WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of the cases pending with Government seeking for permission by the foreign educational institutions?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The World Trade Organization (WTO) recognizes the right of members to regulate the entry of any service provider.

(c) No, Sir.

AICTE norms

508. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has recently taken series of measures to ensure that the norms and regulations prescribed for technical education institutions are strictly adhered to by them so as to maintain the quality of higher education in different disciplines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recently some 70 institutions have been warned to improve their functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of the prescribed norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The All India Council for Technical Education is mandated to ensure that norms and standards are followed by the technical institutes and hence it is a continuous process. For the year 2005-06, the AICTE had undertaken a single comprehensive inspection of institutes in order to ensure a holistic appraisal of the quality of delivery of education. The process of approvals was also modified to ensure objectivity, transparency and participation by all the stakeholders.

(c) and (d) Action, such as withdrawal of approval reduced in take and 'no admission', has been taken against 76 institutes during 2005-06 on various grounds like excess admissions made, inadequate infrastructure/ facilities, conducting unapproved courses, faculty shortage, etc.